

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1936-1945.

Supplemental to volumes one, two, three and four collected in 1931, 1932 and 1934.

About the 2011 Edition

The 2011 edition is a transcription of the original work collected and published by Major Matthews. Handwritten marginalia and corrections Matthews made to his text over the years have been incorporated and some typographical errors have been corrected, but no other editorial work has been undertaken. The edition and its online presentation was produced by the City of Vancouver Archives to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 5 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 5. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

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car, and it is easily understandable that he got confused, but knew there was something going on, but did not know just exactly what.”

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH COLONEL EDWARD MALLANDAINE, CRESTON, B.C., PIONEER OF VANCOUVER, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES DURING A SHORT VISIT TO VANCOUVER, 8 JANUARY 1940.

Colonel Mallandaine tells me he is a Reeve of Creston—three years—terms, 1936-7-8, and 1939, '40 and '41; that he has been a stipendiary magistrate since 1899; i.e., in 42 years; that he is Past Deputy Grand Master, District No. 8, Freemasons, and that he has sold the Creston Water Works, \$35,000. Col. Mallandaine is the boy who appears in the famous photograph of Sir Donald Smith (Lord Strathcona) driving the last spike at Craigellachie, B.C. (C.P.R.), November 1885.

We “toured” the City Hall; introduced him to His Worship Dr. Telford and others; spent an hour or more together. It was an extraordinary experience for both of us. For one who had voted at the first election of civic authority in Vancouver to inspect the great edifice, the “City Hall,” and recall the day when he had voted in Constable Jonathan Miller’s little cottage on Water Street, and cast his vote for the first Mayor and Alderman of this great city. It was an experience for His Worship Dr. Telford to meet such a man; it was a privilege for me to be his escort, to be able to talk with, and touch, so remarkable a link with the beginning of a great railway and a great city. It was a privilege which few value as they should; we are too near to the event.

FIRST ELECTION, 1886. MAYOR M.A. MACLEAN.

Major Matthews: Col. Mallandaine, did you vote at the first election for mayor and alderman?

Col. Mallandaine: “Certainly, and helped to drag Mayor MacLean up and down Water Street in a two-wheeled cart; I don’t know if it was a butcher cart or not, but it had two wheels; some were in the shafts, some pulling ropes; we could not go far; just up to the end of the street, turn around, and pull the new mayor back again to where we started.”

ST. JAMES’ CHURCH.

Major Matthews: Wish you would write down a few things you think ought to be preserved in writing.

Col. Mallandaine: “How about St. James’ Church? I’ll write you about the start of St. James’ Church.”

We parted on the south entrance steps. He is flying back to Creston tomorrow. What a remarkable age he has lived through. To stand in the tower of this huge building, and look over a city spreading seven miles deep by ten miles wide, and reflect upon the day when he saw it all as a wilderness of towering forest; an experience which, and such as, will never again be the experience of any man.

J.S. Matthews.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. WILLOUGHBY HOWELL, 2 FEBRUARY 1940.

Née Frances Errington (the Erringtons of Lulu Island are cousins) who came to Vancouver 6 March 1889, lived in Vancouver until 1894, when she went to live on their own farm on No. Thirteen Road, right in front of the Sea Island Airport—across the road. (It would seem their farm must have been on Sea Island.) Mrs. Howell, in company of Miss McColl of Addressograph Department, City Hall, kindly called at the City Archives; rather small of stature, but just another one of those charming, gracious, kind pioneer women with white hair, the wrinkles which experience have brought, and the same courageous persistence.

Mrs. Howell said: “Mr. Howell’s father was an officer in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers stationed with the Imperial Forces at London, Ontario, and Mr. Howell was born there on June 26th the year the Prince of Wales” (King Edward VII) “came” (1860) “to Canada, and Mr. Howell’s mother was at the military balls, and the Prince of Wales paid her much attention. I was born at Glanworth, Ontario, 15th July—I shall be 76 this year” (1940.) “Then Mr. Howell and I were married at Christ Church, Glanworth, on the fifth or seventh January 1888; Anglican church, and we lived there a year, and then we came by C.P.R. to Vancouver, and lived on Pender Street for a while, and then near the corner of Howe and Pender. Mr.

Howell worked in Thos. Dunn Hardware store on Cordova Street. He died two years ago, 3rd May 1938, and his remains were cremated.

"We have two sons and one daughter:

1. The eldest is Watson Howell, and is living on a farm at Nicomen Island. He married Ellen Durman [*sic*] of Mimico, near Toronto, and they have two sons, Gordon and Norman, about seventeen and twelve.
2. The second child was Frank Howell; he lives at Steveston, married Violet Edwards, who was living on Lulu Island at the time. They have a son, James, now about six, and a daughter, Barbara, now about eleven; they have a milk ranch.
3. Constance was my third child; only daughter. She is Mrs. Charles Rooke; live at Langley Prairie; have a farm, and one boy, Willoughby, about 27, and no children.



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FIRST CHILDREN BORN VANCOUVER, 1886. JAKE GRAUER OF EBURNE. GEORGE GRAUER, HIS SON.

“Mrs. Jake Grauer still lives, with her daughter, at 1311 West 57th Avenue, and she has told me many times that her son George—he lives out near Ladner’s now—was one of the first children born in Vancouver; she used to talk about it when they were giving a present to Miss Edith Jackson.” (A phone call to Mrs. Grauer’s home brought us the information from Mrs. Grauer through her daughter that George was born 25 November 1886, at 10th and Westminster Avenue, now Main Street.)

GRANVILLE STREET SOUTH. NORTH ARM ROAD. SHAUGHNESSY HEIGHTS. STAGES.

“Do you remember the accident up on the hill? Up Shaughnessy Heights now; North Arm Road then” (Granville Street); “I saw it. It was just evening; we were all going home after a day’s shopping in Vancouver getting groceries and things for Christmas; it was just before Christmas; the stages were going out to Steveston; we were about the third or fourth team behind the stage, and the tree fell and killed the driver, but never touched the horses or passengers; most extraordinary thing; it just killed the driver. The stage was crowded, and he was on the dash board because it was so crowded on the stage; it killed him outright; great big cedar tree; it was the worst thing I ever saw; we did not get out of the rig; old Mr. Mellish’s stage was right behind the stage the tree fell on, and he picked up the body; we had to circle around to get our rig by; it was gravel road, but narrow; it was right on top of the hill, but that hill has been cut down so much it is hard to tell just exactly where, but it was up by the Shaughnessy Golf links.”

POST OFFICE STRIKE. POSTMASTER JONATHAN MILLER.

“Old Miller, the postmaster, he had the post office on Hastings Street, and there was a strike among the clerks, I don’t know much about it, but I think they wanted more pay, but I think the government allowed Mr. Miller so much a year and he had to get his own clerks, and then afterwards the government took it over and they paid the clerks, but I know they had a strike in the post office.” (And Mrs. Howell smiled as she recollected.)

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH HIRAM W. WOODWARD, 151 WEST FOURTH STREET, NORTH VANCOUVER, WHO SPENT THE AFTERNOON IN THE CITY ARCHIVES WITH ME, 8 FEBRUARY 1940.

WORKINGMEN’S PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, 1878. TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL.

Mr. Woodward: “Here, you want this; you can have it. It is the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of the Order of the Workingmen’s Protective Association, Victoria, 1878, and I think the first labour union in British Columbia.”

EDWIN WOODWARD, LIGHTKEEPER. POINT ATKINSON, 1875. WELLWOOD, SECOND LIGHTKEEPER.

“The government had one boat only, the *Sir James Douglas*; my sister Mrs. Gough, at that time Miss Woodward, and Dora Ganner, they went over to Point Atkinson on the same boat as Wellwood, the second lightkeeper at Point Atkinson, went over to take charge; that was in the summer of 1877, because my sister became Mrs. Gough in November 1877. My sister said she left Point Atkinson on the same boat as Edwin Woodward; they had to wait at the lighthouse until the *Sir James Douglas* came back to take them and Ed. Woodward away.”

WOODWARD’S LANDING. GREENWOOD, B.C. ARMSTRONG, B.C. MAYOR FRED COPE.

“My father, Caleb Woodward, arrived from St. Williams, Norfolk County, Ontario, 24th May 1873; I came from Norfolk Co., Ontario, and my mother came from Norfolk Co., England. Father was the second migration from St. Williams to B.C. Robert and Christopher Wood, of the North Arm, Fraser River, were the first. Afterwards there was my father Caleb, and my uncle Edwin Woodward, first lightkeeper at Point Atkinson, and Nat Woodward, of Woodward’s Landing, and his son Dan, who is still living, and Mayor Fred Cope, third mayor of Vancouver, and, of course, the Woods of North Arm. Greenwood, B.C. is named after Robert Wood, and he started Armstrong, B.C. and called it Aberdeen, but the C.P.R. came along and changed the name to Armstrong. Christopher Wood had gone back to England; all came from St. Williams, Norfolk Co., Ontario.